

Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes
9:30 AM – Senior Center
February 14, 2011

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), C. Pellegrine (Vice-Chair), T. Rogers, E. Poirier, J. Terry, D. Nolan, M. Thatcher, J. Quarto, B. Lavoie (staff), C. Dainton (staff), Betty Savage (Juniper Hill), W. Bigl
REGRETS: A. Holinko, S. Gordon

- I. **Call to Order:** Vice-Chair C. Pellegrine called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. She noted the passing of Tim Quinn, the Chair of the Commission, and acknowledged his long-time service to this Committee.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the **January 10, 2011** meeting were accepted as written.
- IV. **Correspondence – Chair and Staff:**
 - C. Pellegrine shared a letter from the Town Clerk requesting a recommendation for an appointment to the Human Services Advisory Committee. Joan Terry expressed an interest in serving on this committee. This recommendation was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.
 - C. Pellegrine announced that there is a recommendation to the Town Council on tonight's agenda that Senior Center programs be included in the Fee Waiver Ordinance, and a public hearing has been proposed on this item for Feb. 28 at 7:30 PM.
 - C. Pellegrine has attempted to determine what the process is for replacing the Chair of this Commission. She researched the Town Code and distributed copies of the guidelines for Advisory Committees. The Code indicates that officers should be elected annually. She suggested that the Commission elect officers, and that the nominating committee (J. Quarto and W. Bigl) recommend openings for positions. M. Thatcher responded to a request to join the nominating committee, which will recommend a new member for the Commission and nominate officers. J. Terry has the name of an interested member, and the Committee on Committees reportedly has a waiting list for members for this committee. J. Quarto will contact Paul Shapiro about this. C. Dainton suggested that the nominations be held off until elections can be held later in the year, since terms expire in September. J. Quarto agreed to follow-up and determine how this committee will work with the Committee On Committees on appointments; the Commission will determine a process to elect officers.
- V. **New Business**

- A. Election of COA Officers: Motion made, seconded and approved unanimously that C. Pellegrine will serve as the Chair of the Commission until elections can be held. She then requested that an “acting” Vice-Chair be appointed. J. Quarto agreed to serve in this capacity; moved, seconded and approved unanimously.
- B. Recommendation of representative to the Human Service Advisory Committee: J. Terry has volunteered.
- C. Non-profit Agency Funding Requests: The following assignments were made to review funding requests:
Meals on Wheels: Joan Terry
Dial-A-Ride: Mary Thatcher/Don Nolan
McSweeney Senior Center: Joan Quarto
Community Companions and Homemakers: April Holinko/Carol Pellegrine.
These individuals will report back with recommendations at the March meeting.
- D. “Other”

VI. Optional Reports on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – B. Lavoie reported that there have been multiple requests for snow shoveling from seniors, and she has been working to match people with those willing to do this work. She has formed a sub-committee (5 members) who will have their first meeting next week to begin to review an expansion of wellness services. There is a new UConn student who is working on the revision of “At Your Fingertips.” Barbara is gathering information about obtaining the SafeLinks cell phones for low-income residents. Student Stephanie Fry has been working with residents at Wrights Way and Juniper Hill, and has been asked to meet with residents at Glen Ridge to complete emergency medical forms.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – C. Dainton distributed copies of her monthly report. The Center has had to close 8 times this winter due to snow; there is no capacity to “make up” programs if they are cancelled due to snow. J. Quarto asked about Parks & Rec. classes that are held at the Senior Center: these programs are not specifically aimed at seniors.

Senior Center Assoc. –T. Rogers recognized C. Dainton’s efforts in keeping the Senior Center open during the recent difficult weather conditions. The Association is in the process of forming a nominating committee for officers of their Executive Committee.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Advisory Committee: K. Grunwald reported that Masonicare has not been able to locate an adequate supply of water on the Maple Rd. property. They have approached UConn for water, but it is unlikely that this will be granted. The Town is working with them to secure access to potential sources of water for that property.

Wrights Way, Juniper Hill: no reports.

Jensen's Park: E. Poirier announced that they held a clinic on diabetes, and there were 30 students from various programs who put on an excellent program.

Glen Ridge, Other: no reports.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations such as:

The Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities: will be hosting a presentation at the Senior Center on Wed., 2/23 presenting resources for seniors and people with disabilities.

Senior Resources of Eastern CT: C. Pellegrine has not received a response to the letter that was sent to Joan Wessell; K. Grunwald will follow-up.

VII. Old Business

A. Report of the Nominating Committee: no report.

B. Long Range Plan: Action Plan and Publicity Plan: C. Pellegrine distributed a draft press release that was created by a committee consisting of herself, Joan Quarto and April Holinko. This would be widely distributed as a publicity plan on the long-range plan. J. Terry questioned the use of "desirable residence in Mansfield for all ages." Suggested that this be modified to reflect the focus on aging citizens/seniors/the elderly. Some concerns were raised about the connotation of the term "seniors." A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the edited version of this communication. C. Pellegrine will contact the Mayor to obtain approval to distribute this, and copies will be made available on the website and at the Senior Center, Human Services' office. Members thanked Carol for her work on this. T. Rogers will make sure that it goes into Sparks, and J. Terry will include it in the Glen Ridge newsletter.

C. Triad: W. Bigl reported on the Yellow Dot program and distributed cards for members to fill out with information about emergency medical and contact information. Once the card is filled out individuals bring it back to the senior center to have a driver's license photo copied on to the card and to receive a "yellow dot" decal to be placed on the rear window of the car. He has notified police and fire department members about the program. An Identity Theft program has been held at Juniper Hill, and will be held at Jensen's, Glen Ridge and the Senior Center. There will be a reception held at the Senior Center in March with refreshments to encourage seniors to enroll in the Yellow Dot program at the time.

VIII. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission: no comments.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM. Next meeting: **Monday, March 14, 2011** at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald